

News Release



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Keeping State Off-Highway Vehicle Parks Open

Fee Hikes Coming, But Still a Great Price For Family Fun and Recreation

SACRAMENTO -- As part of its effort to keep California's off-highway vehicle recreation program adequately funded and meet environmental stewardship requirements, it will cost more to visit a State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA), State Park officials announced today.

Beginning July 1, 2004, the day use fee at all SVRA's will increase from \$4 to \$5 per vehicle entering; camping at all SVRA's will increase from \$6 to \$10 per night; and annual passes at all SVRA's will be \$50.

"Even with these very modest increases our parks are a wonderful place for family fun and recreation and still provide a good economic value", said Deputy Director Daphne Greene of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of California State Parks.

"Visitation at the State's Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Areas continues to increase at record numbers, and as a result the cost of taking care of these facilities has gone up as well. Californians who haven't had the opportunity to visit our Parks should come out and see for themselves the great opportunities that await them."

The fee increase at the SVRA's is in keeping with State Parks' announcement last December that park use fees would be increased beginning July 1, 2004 because of the State's continuing budget crisis. The purpose of that increase is to offset a \$15 million dollar reduction in the Department's General Fund budget set to take effect July 1, the beginning of the 2004/05 fiscal year.

The OHMVR Division of California State Parks operates six main SVRAs. They are Prairie City, Carnegie, Hollister Hills, Hungry Valley, Ocotillo Wells, and Oceano Dunes.

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